

Facing a problem

- From 2003-2006 Approximately 80 Minneapolis residents between ages 15 & 24 died from homicide
- Homicide was the leading cause of death for Minneapolis residents of this age – comprising nearly ½ the deaths
- During that same time youth fire arm related injuries and juvenile violent crime increased as well.

Developing a new approach

- Policymakers and police department leadership realized that a law enforcement approach was necessary but insufficient.
- Working with the Minneapolis Foundation, community meetings were held to identify gaps and opportunities related to preventing youth violence
- In 2006 the City Council adopted a resolution declaring youth violence a public health issue

Developing a plan

- A steering committee was formed to develop a multiyear, multi-sector plan to prevent youth violence
- The effort was chaired by the Mayor and leaders from 2 local foundations
- Community members and youth were engaged in developing solutions
- Best and promising practices were researched and evaluated

Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence

Four goals and 34 strategic recommendations were adopted

- 1. Connect every youth to a trusted adult
- 2. Intervene at the first sign of risk
- 3. Restore youth who are going down the wrong path
- 4. Unlearn the culture of violence

Putting the plan into action

- 17 member Executive Committee appointed to oversee implementation
- Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator position created
- Work groups charged with implementation of recommendations



Measuring impact

Annual city-wide results accountability process initiated (Results Minneapolis) 22 indicators identified around 4 goals— examples:

- Youth homicide victims
- Juvenile violent crime
- Hospitalizations from assault injuries
- Curfew truancy pickups
- Perception of safety in school
- High school graduation
- Participation in extracurricular activities
- Teen pregnancy rates

Making progress through partnerships

- School Resource Officers: Close coordination with police juvenile unit and the School Resource Officers
- Speak Up: Collaboration with Minneapolis Public Schools on an anonymous tip line
- MYVIP: Hospital protocol to reach out to youth victims of violence
- Street Reach: Utilization of parks staff for outreach to youth
- North 4 Program: Collaboration with city employment and training and a community based organization to engage and employ gang affiliated youth
- Summer 612 Media Campaign: Foundation funding of Summer 612 a youth driven effort to counter the culture of violence

Signs of progress (2006-11)

- 59% reduction in juvenile violent crime
- 66% reduction in incidents involving guns and juveniles
- 39% reduction in firearm related injuries in Minneapolis youth and young adults
- 57% increase in number of youth in STEP-UP and other city jobs programs
- Significant drop in teen pregnancy rate

